

Bedford Sign Bylaw Committee
August 1, 2013, 7:30 PM
Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Attending: Jeff Cohen, Karen Kenney, Lisa Mustapich and Mark Siegenthaler
Chris Laskey, Staff

Absent: Carol Carlson

Jeff opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of the June 23 and July 11 meetings.

Motion by Mustapich to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2013, Second by Kenney: 4-0, unanimous.

Motion by Mustapich to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2013, Second by Kenney: 4-0, unanimous.

The group reviewed Town Counsel's advice regarding sandwich board signs. If the Town adds to the sign bylaw the use of sandwich board signs, then changes the bylaw to outlaw then, those that were approved would become grandfathered. The group discussed requiring all sandwich boards to have a ZBA special permit & make one mandatory condition that they would not be grandfathered if the Sign Bylaw is changed in future; the signs would have to comply with the new Bylaw.

It was noted that during the present temporary Sign Bylaw exemption period during which time businesses may display movable freestanding signs, there are business not placing the signs in the correct locations. Chris has been educating the businesses and landlords and advising them where to relocate the signs. If Special Permits were required for these signs, the SP would regulate the location. The permit cost would be the same as all special permits.

Also, the committee noted that sandwich boards in the Historic District would be subject to review and approval of the HDC.

The committee agreed to begin taking votes towards making recommendations at the Aug 15 meeting. Jeff will bring a marked up sign bylaw and first draft of proposed warrant articles.

Next meetings will be: 15 Aug, 29 Aug, and 5 Sept.

The committee needs to be prepared to go before the Selectmen sometime around 9/9. Mark will confirm the September Selectmen meeting dates.

Motion to adjourn by Mustapich; Second by Kenney: 4-0, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.